Scheme for development and welfare of tribals

4133. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the special measures, in addition to the schemes already in existence, undertaken by Government, for the economic and social growth development and welfare of tribal people;

(b) what is the perceptible effect caused by such measures and the basis to say so; and

(c) whether the tribal people would ever be brought to the minimum level of living standards of people residing in plains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) and (b) In addition to the several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ programmes being implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of tribal people in the country, this Ministry has launched a new initiative in the year 2005-06 for the development of foest villages. It has also enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Under the scheme of Development of Forest Villages, funds are released to the States for integrated development of forest villages by providing basic minimum services and facilities like approach roads, health care, primary education, minor irrigation, rain water harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls etc.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, which has been operationised with effect from 31.12.2007, seeks to recognize and vest certain rights over forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but where rights could not be recorded to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including right to collect, use, and dispose the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights.

(c) The main thrust of present schemes/programmes of tribal development is to bring the tribals into the mainstream and upto the national levels.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act

4134. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, State-wise;

(b) how many claim applications in Form-A have been filed, as on 31st March, 2008 State-wise; and

(c) how many tribals or forest dwellers are actually given land pattas, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) to (c) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been notified for operation with effect from 31st December, 2007. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. Soon after the operationalisation of the Act, this Ministry had addressed the State/UT Governments on 11.1.2008 for constituting various Committees under the Act and for initiating necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers. The State/UT Governments are still in the process of implementing the provisions of the Act and information of progress has started pouring in. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not received any information from the States so far regarding the claim applications filed for vesting of forest rights and distribution of pattas to the elgible forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

ST status to some communities in Assam

4135. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous decision to grant ST status to six communities, including Koch Rajbongshi, Ahom, Tea Tribe, etc. in Assam and the same resolution was handed over to the Ministry;

(b) whether Government is considering the said proposal in consultation with the appropriate authority, for reconsideration of issuing ST status to such communities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) This Ministry had received proposals from the State Government of Assam alongwith Resolution passed unanimously by the Assam Legislative Assembly in its sitting held on 5.8.2004 for inclusion of 6 (Six)communities of Assam namely Koch Rajbongshi, Tai-Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Motak and communities belonging to Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State of Assam.

(b) and (c) These proposals have been processed as per modalities approved by the Government of India on 15/06/1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists in consultation with the appropriate authority namely the Concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes as mentioned in the approved modalities. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sought additional justification from State Government of Assam on their proposal for inclusion of six communities in the ST list of Assam.

Implementation of Schemes for Tribals

4136. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency for coordination between this Ministry and the Ministry of Rural Development, for proper implementation of various schemes of that Ministry in tribal and scheduled areas and particularly for implementation of NREGP;